

Kingston, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) released the following statement today in recognition of the ninth anniversary of September 11.

"Nine years ago today, we stood in shock as terrorists took the lives of thousands and forever altered the course of our shared history. This September 11, we stand united in remembrance of those who gave their lives. But as we honor those who were taken from us, we must also not forget that many who survived still suffer from wounds both visible and invisible.

"The firefighters and police who rushed into the flames, the EMTs and nurses who treated the injured, the construction workers and everyday citizens who risked their own health to salvage that which could be salvaged and repair what damage could be undone still lack the health care and economic compensation they need and deserve. It is a tragedy that such words can be spoken, but it is our duty to ensure that they need not be spoken again.

"Nine years later, we must not only join together to right this wrong, but also work to correct injustice wherever it may be. We must rebuild our economy, fortify our national defense and be forever vigilant to ensure another attack of this magnitude never occurs again. We must strive to ensure that all citizens of this country have access to the health care and education, and work to protect our environment and the natural beauty of this land. We must unite around common purpose and our shared ideals to preserve the nation we all love.

"While we may sometimes be divided by politics or opinion, as Americans of every race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, we should always remember on that day we stood together, and let there be no doubt that the greatness of America lies in our ability to unite ourselves once again and face down the challenges of a new day."